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SECRET FRP: [redacted]

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PAGE 001
TOT: 05[redacted] AUG 81

[redacted]

LATIN AMERICA BRIEF [redacted] FOR 5 AUG 1981.

[redacted]

1. BOLIVIA: GARCIA MEZA RESIGNS.

//PRESIDENT GARCIA MEZA S ANNOUNCED INTENTION LAST NIGHT TO STEP DOWN--IN RESPONSE TO THE REBELLION LAUNCHED BY GENERALS NATUSCH AND ANEZ ON MONDAY--AND TO TURN POWER OVER TO THE RULING JUNTA OF SERVICE COMMANDERS HAS CREATED A TEMPORARY POWER VACUUM. THE SENIOR JUNTA CHIEF, AIR FORCE GENERAL BERNAL HAS BEEN LINKED, LIKE GARCIA MEZA, WITH BOLIVIA'S ILLICIT NARCOTICS INDUSTRY AND IS UNACCEPTABLE TO MANY MILITARY OFFICERS. THE REBEL LEADERS REPORTEDLY WANT THE RESIGNATIONS OF BERNAL AND HIS COLLEAGUES. A JUNTA GOVERNMENT WOULD BE, AT BEST, A STOPGAP UNTIL THE ARMY'S TRUE POWER BROKERS--THE KEY TROOP COMMANDERS--CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON A NEW LEADER.//

SECRET

[redacted]

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b (1) b (3)
Approved for Release
FEB 2000